

Penn and Liberty Avenues (Commercial Buildings)  
(King Building)  
639 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh  
Allegheny County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5152-B

HABS  
PA,  
2-PITBU,  
44-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**  
**PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS)**  
**(King Building)**

HABS No. PA - 5152B

Location: 639 Liberty Avenue,  
Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Quadrangle Name: Pittsburgh West/Pittsburgh East  
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References:

- a. Zone: 17 Easting: 584700 Northing: 4477110
- b. Zone: 17 Easting: 584690 Northing: 4477170
- c. Zone: 17 Easting: 584830 Northing: 4477220
- d. Zone: 17 Easting: 584860 Northing: 4477140

Present Owner: Penn Liberty Holding Company

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant

Significance:

The King Building's primary significance dated to the latter half of the nineteenth century when it housed a procession of commission merchants, the earliest documented one being J.A. Graff in 1873. Although Robert H. King, the owner, does not appear to have occupied the building, he and his neighbor at 641 Liberty, the Whittens, built both warehouses in a Victorian commercial stylistic vocabulary that characterized Pittsburgh's downtown before Henry Hobson Richardson's design for the Allegheny Courthouse revolutionized the city's taste in materials, massing, and style. In keeping with the organic nature of a downtown commercial district, the King Building underwent its changes, too. In 1908 the King heirs commissioned W.D. Beatty, a Pittsburgh builder, to construct a more fashionable free-classical facade that better suited the early twentieth century retail shopping district. It was this facade that weathered the alterations by commercial tenants until 1984.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: circa 1860 - circa 1873

The date is based upon stylistic analysis of the Victorian commercial facade as it appears in historic views and conclusions drawn from an 1860 deed transfer and 1873 city directory listing.

2. Architect: unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners:

References to the chain of title to the land upon which the structure stands are in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Allegheny County Courthouse Annex, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

- 1860 Deed, February 1, 1860, recorded in Volume 145, pages 263 - 65.  
Alexis Bonnet, et al. to Robert H. King, the elder.
- 1895 Will, August 24, 1895, recorded in the Will Book Volume 49, page 300.  
Robert H. King, the elder, to daughter, Martha King Kepler in trust for son, William D. King, and after decease of said son, to his sons Robert H. King and David W. King.
- 1908 Orphans Court Awarded inter alia to Union Trust Co. of Pittsburgh, trustee for the W.D. King Trust under the will of Robert H. King, the elder, deceased.
- 1912 William D. King died February 11, 1912. Letters of Administration issued to Safe Deposit and Trust Co.
- 1912 Will, July 4, 1912, recorded in Will Book Volume 114, page 538.  
Robert H. King, the younger, to mother, Mrs. Elizabeth King and upon her demise, to brother, Clarence C. King.

PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS)  
( King Building)  
HABS No. PA - 5152B  
(Page 3)

- 1915 Deed, September 22, 1915, recorded in Volume 1837, pages 469 - 71.  
Union Trust Co. of Pittsburgh, Trustee for the W.D. King Trust under the Will of Robert H. King, the elder, to David W. King, half interest.
- Deed, September 22, 1915, recorded in Volume 1837, pages 471 - 73.  
Union Trust Co. of Pittsburgh, Trustee for the W.D. King Trust under the Will of Robert H. King, the elder, to Safe Deposit and Trust Co., Trustee, now the People Savings and Trust Co., under the will of Robert H. King, the younger, having died testate July 4, 1912, half-interest.
- 1922 Deed, December 1, 1922, recorded in Volume 2145, pages 164 - 66.  
Union Trust Company of Pittsburgh, Trustee for the W.D. King Trust under the Will of Robert H. King, the elder, deceased, to Clarence C. King, half interest.
- Deed, December 2, 1922, recorded in Volume 2145, page 163 - 164.  
People Savings and Trust Co., Trustee, and David W. King and Katherine B., his wife, Clarence C. King and Hazel S., his wife, and Jane D. King, widow of Robert H., the younger, to J.M. Hoffman Co.
- 1960 Deed, July 7, 1960, recorded in Volume 3869, pages 133 - 36.  
J. M. Hoffman Co. to Sarah Kepler Grapp.
- 1966 Deed, June 14, 1966, recorded in Volume 4241, pages 77 - 80.  
Sarah Kepler Grapp to Beatrice Good.
- 1971 Deed, April 1, 1971, recorded in Volume 4973, pages 93 - 100.  
Chicken 'N' Things to Brass Rail Restaurant Co.
- 1979 Deed, March 12, 1979, recorded in Volume 6078, pages 439 - 42.  
Brass Rail Restaurant Co. to William Zotis.

1983 Deed, October 26, 1983, recorded in Volume 6755, pages 322 - 25.

William Zotis to Penn Liberty Holding Co.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers:

William D. Beatty, who executed the 1908 alteration, is the only documented contractor associated with the King Building. Beatty advertised himself as carpenter and contractor in 1894 and as "one of Allegheny's foremost boss carpenters." He established his business in 1889 and maintained his shop at the corner of Erie and West Diamond Streets, where he employed approximately thirty hands. Beatty constructed a broad range of building types, including the Masonic Temple in Allegheny (1894) and later in his career, the alterations for the King heirs' commercial building.

5. Original plans and construction:

The original warehouse was a four story and basement structure, roughly 20 by 88 feet in dimensions. It was constructed of masonry with wood joists spanning open loft spaces that accommodated the storage needs of produce commission houses. The King Building had a stair along the west wall and an elevator along the east wall, both in the rear third of the building.

6. Alterations and additions:

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Building Inspection, Record Book of Alterations and Repairs, Volume 3, 25 February 1908, shows a building permit issued to W.D. King as owner and W.D. Beatty as builder for an estimated cost of \$5,500. This substantial alteration would have been the reconstruction of the Liberty Avenue facade, which replaced the Victorian lintels, finials, recessed panels, and arched openings of the brick facade with a brick free-classical front carried on a steel frame. Subsequent alterations included closing off the fourth floor (1950s) and changing the storefront and interiors (1960s).

PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS)  
 (King Building)  
 HABS No. PA - 5152B  
 (Page 5)

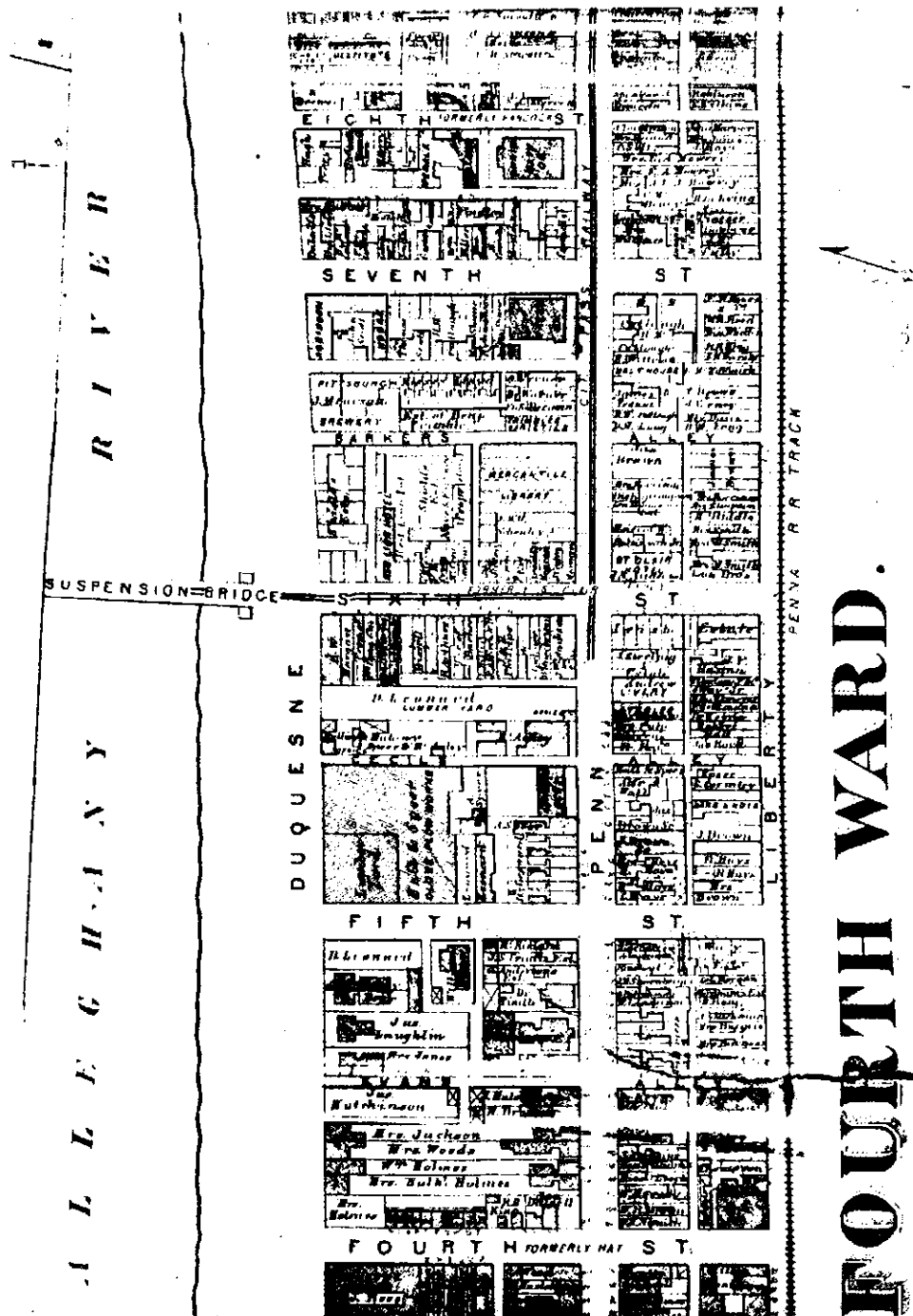


Fig. 1. Penn/Liberty area in 1872. from: G.M. Hopkins, Atlas of the Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny and Adjoining Boroughs; Philadelphia, 1872, plates 22,23.

PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS)  
 ( King Building )  
 HABS No. PA - 5152B  
 (Page 6)

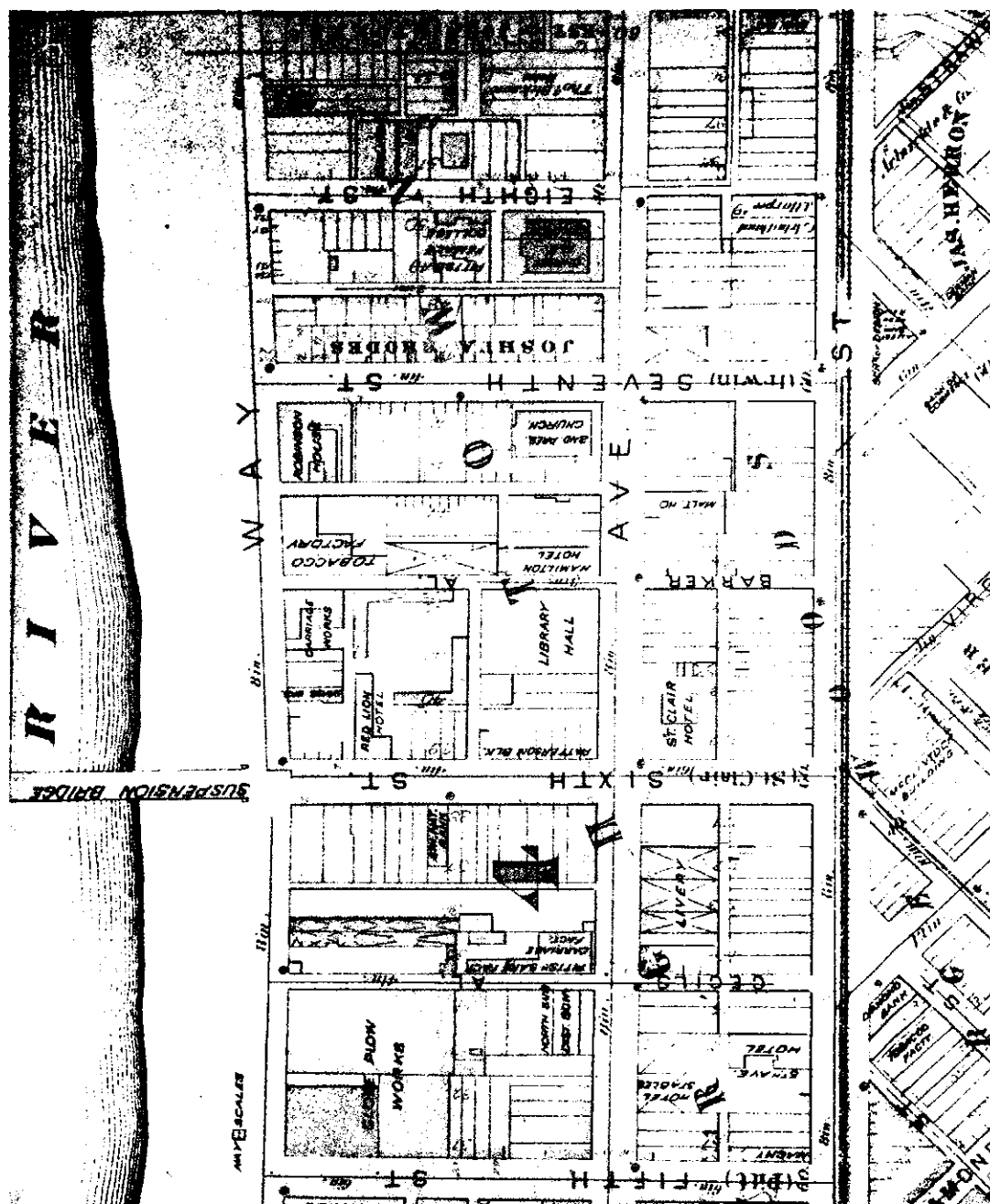


Fig. 2. Penn/Liberty area in 1882, from: G.M. Hopkins, Atlas of the Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Philadelphia, 1882, plate 1.

PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS)  
 (King Building)  
 HABS No. PA - 5152B  
 (Page 7)

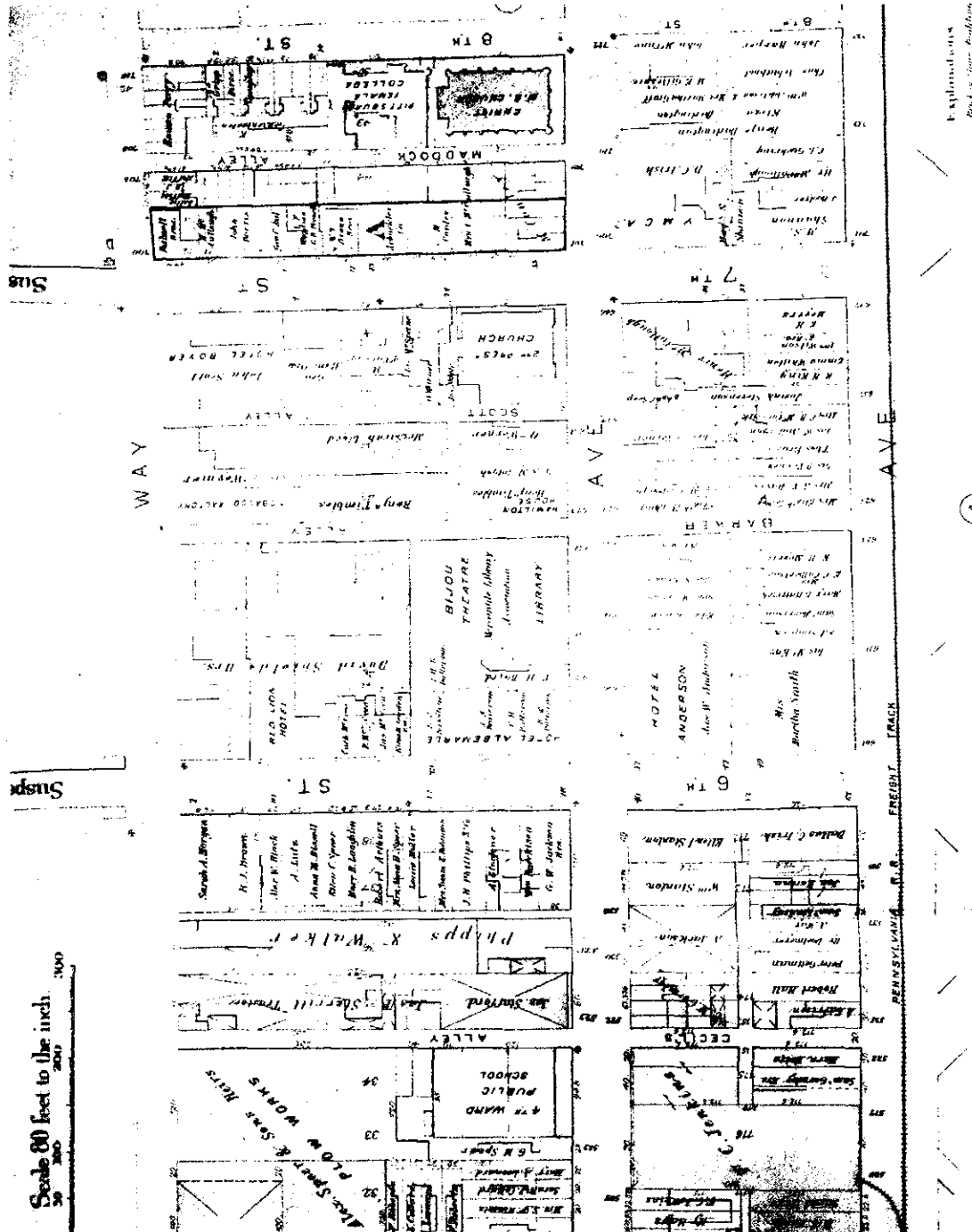


Fig. 3. Penn/Liberty area in 1889, from: C.M. Hopkins, Atlas of the City of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, 1889. Vol. 1, plate 5.



PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS)  
 (King Building)  
 HABS No. PA - 5152B  
 (Page 8)

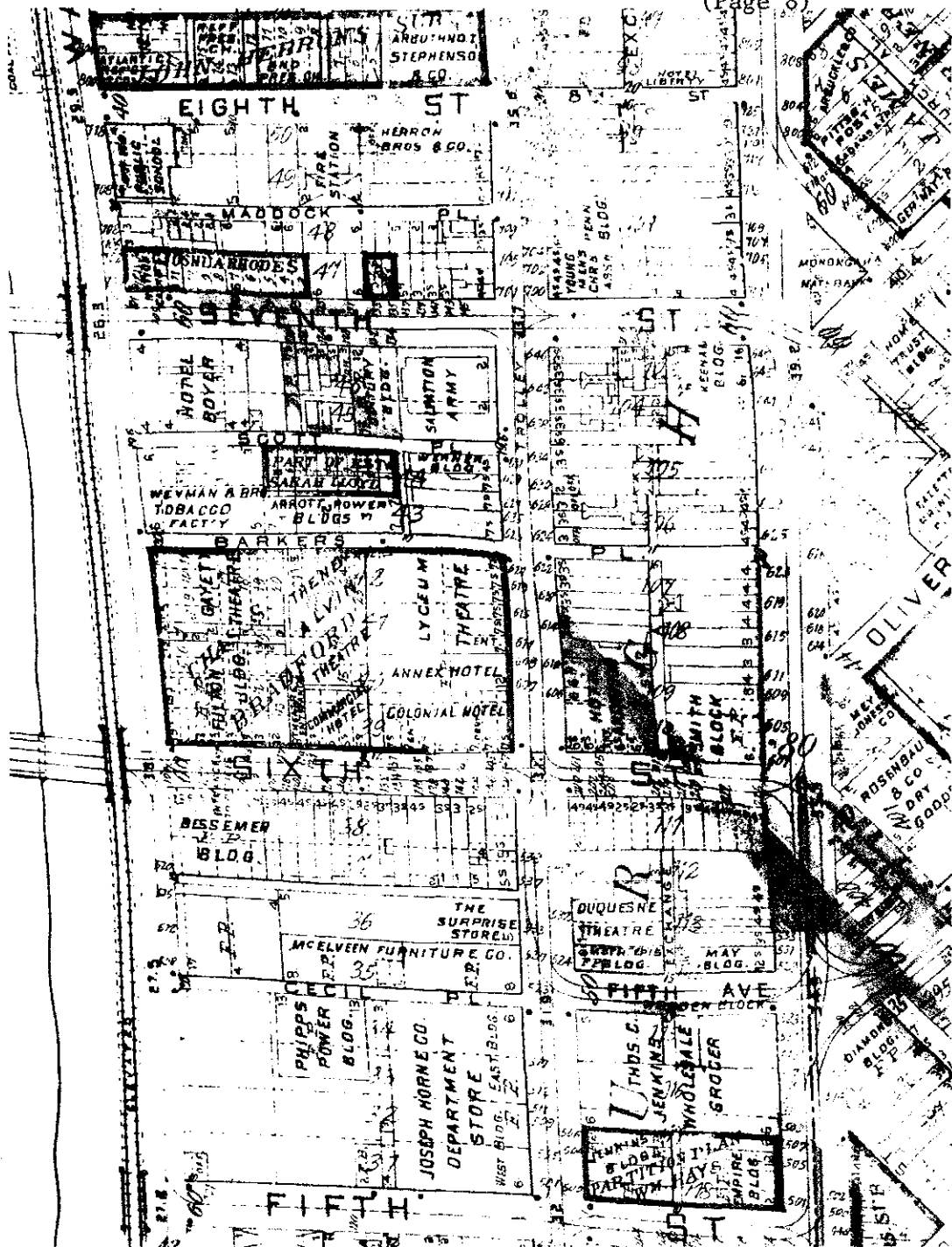


Fig. 4. Penn/Liberty area in 1910, from: G.M. Hopkins,  
Map of Greater Pittsburgh, PA, Philadelphia, 1910. plate 1.

[illegible]

**Reference:**

- A. Pittsburgh Town by Oswald N.R.
- B. Min. Regs. Partition Plan N.R.
- C. Chas. S. Bradford.

PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS)  
 (King Building)  
 HABS No. PA -5152B  
 (Page 10)

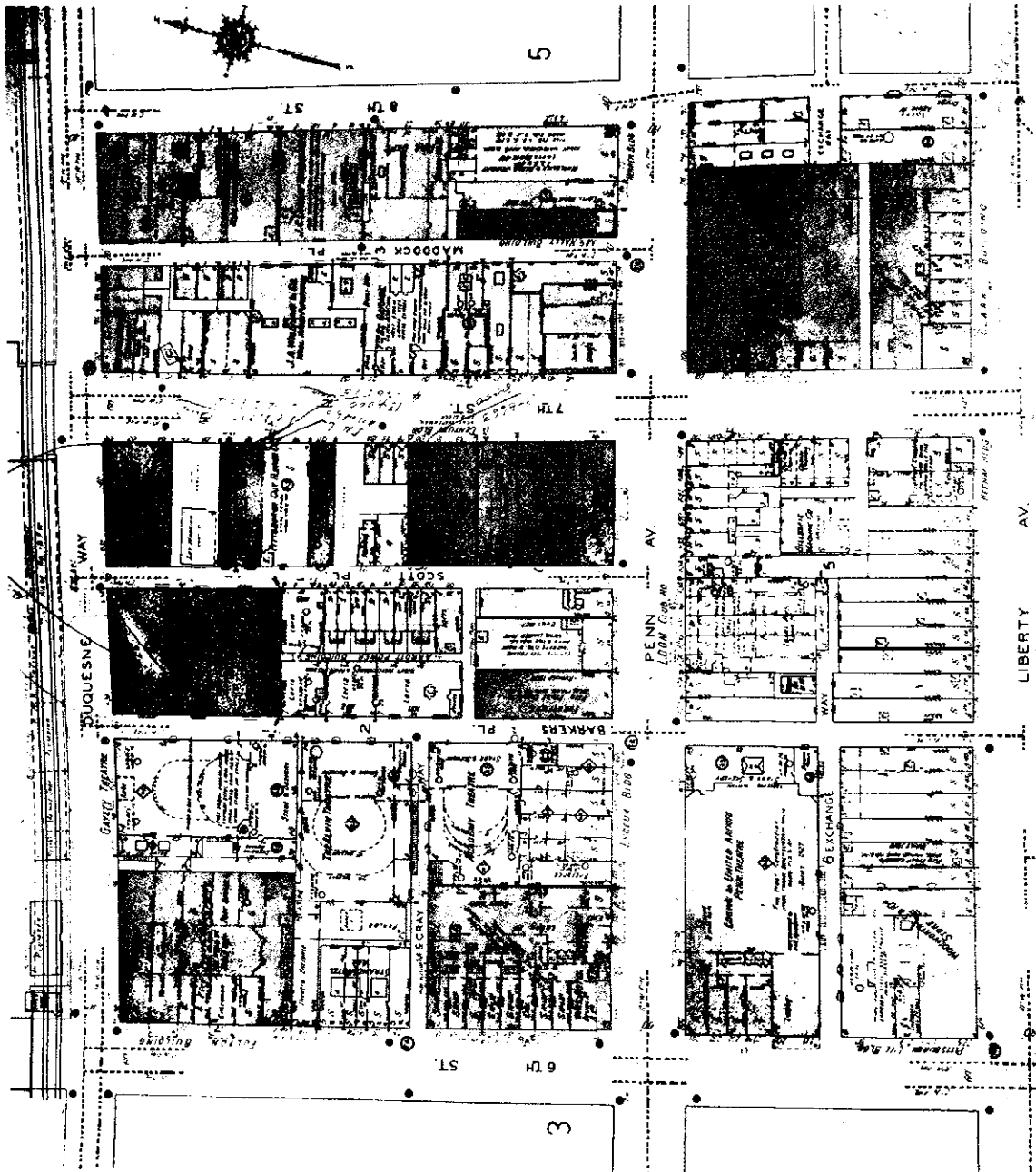


Fig. 6. Penn/Liberty area in 1927, from: Sanborn Map Company,  
Insurance Maps of Pittsburgh, New York, 1927, Vol. 1. plate 4.

B. Historical Context:

City industrial histories note the principal development of the commission merchant trade in the 1860s, a date which corresponds with the demolition of the city markets in 1852, and the advent of rail transportation. The Pennsylvania Railroad at Seventh and Grant street ran its Freight Division along Liberty Avenue as early as 1851 and the Citizens' Passenger Railway shuttled up and down Penn Avenue by 1859. Shortly after 1889, the freight lines along Liberty Avenue moved two blocks north to Duquesne Way, and Liberty Avenue, too, supported trolley lines that gave the general public easy access to the street, while proximity of the Sixth Street Bridge that crossed the Allegheny River provided one more important transportation artery. The combined effect of these circumstances was to make the 600-1100 blocks of Liberty Avenue primary locations for commerce and shipping. Photographs of the district dating from the 1880s, 1890s, and early twentieth century confirm this pattern of development. Typically, three-story converted brick dwellings, and later, four and five-story brick warehouses, roughly 18 feet wide and 100 feet deep, were dressed with signs that listed "Produce", "Cantelopes", "Fruit", "Iron City Produce", and the like. Shed porches spanned across the side walk, providing shelter for delivery, while creating the old street market ambience.

The concentration of produce commission houses on Liberty Avenue was remarkable. The 1885 city directory lists commission merchants at 605, 607, 611, 613, 619, 621, 625, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639 and 641, in short, at all but five properties of the 600 block. With the growing number of commission merchants and sales throughout the 1890s, it is not surprising that thirty of the leading firms organized the Pittsburgh Produce and Fruit Exchange in 1895. The purpose of the Exchange was to increase business even further and protect the interests of both its members and shippers. By 1905 the trade was shifting east out of the increasingly congested downtown, toward the railroad produce depot at 21st and 22nd and Liberty; a secondary destination was southwest towards the B & O Railroad line near Ferry and Water streets. That direction is apparent in the number of merchants on the 600 block of Liberty; eleven in 1902, and six in 1906. In their place came theaters, places of amusement, offices, and more luxurious dry goods operations such as clothing, furniture, and jewelry stores that made the region an adjunct to the booming downtown.

PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS)  
(King Building)  
HABS No. PA - 5152B  
(Page 12)

Throughout Liberty Avenue's era as the center for commission merchants, the King Building housed a long list of tenants. Among those were J.A. Graff and Son (1873) established in 1863, and Somers Brothers and Co. from approximately 1880 to 1891. This latter company, established in 1876, sold wholesale butter, cheese, eggs, green and dried fruits and produce for an annual business in 1888 of \$250,000. From 1892 to 1893, Bulger, Wilbert and Co., wholesale dealers in fruit and produce, occupied the King Building, to be followed by W.E. Oshorne in 1894. The property did not change ownership until 1922, fourteen years after the facade alteration. The new owner, J.M. Hoffmann and Co. (est. 1865) had long been one of Pittsburgh's suppliers of pianos and organs. J.M. Hoffmann moved its store into the King Building during a period when musical instrument and record stores were commonly found in this section of Liberty Avenue. By 1930, the J.J. Gillespie Co., art goods, leased the premises, which were vacant in 1935. Later tenants included Wunderly Brothers, art dealers (1940), Highmont Music Corporation, retail phonograph records and hi-fi equipment (1950s), Wagner-Bund Music Co., store and studio (1960s), Brass Rail Restaurant Co., offices (c. 1969 - 75), and V.S.P. Restaurant and Bar as late as 1984. The succession of tenants was indicative of the increasingly transient commercial nature of Liberty Avenue in the latter half of the twentieth century.

For more information on the Penn-Liberty area, see

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE BUILDING	HABS No. PA-5149
WALLACE AND MCALLISTER BUILDINGS	HABS No. PA-5150
KINGSBACHER'S	HABS No. PA-5151
PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS)	HABS No. PA-5152
PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS) (McCormick Building)	HABS No. PA-5152-A
PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS) (Whitten Building)	HABS No. PA-5152-C
PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS) (Arbuthnot Building)	HABS No. PA-5152-D
PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS) (Harper Building)	HABS No. PA-5152-E
PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS) (Lipson Building)	HABS No. PA-5152-F



Fig. 7. 600 Block of Liberty Avenue, in 1899, from: 100 Views of Pittsburgh, H. Hammond Hook and Co., 1899

PITTSBURG BUSINESS DIRECTORY. 117

W. H. B. BULGER. H. J. WILBERT. H. A. HOFFMAN.



**Bulger, Wilbert & Co.,**  
SUCCESSORS TO  
WILLIAMS & BULGER,  
**Commission Merchants**  
AND WHOLESALE DEALERS IN  
**Fruit and  
Produce.**  
639 Liberty Ave., PITTSBURG, PA.  
TELEPHONE 642.

Fig. 8. 639 Liberty Avenue, from: R.L. Polk's Pittsburgh and Allegheny Directory, Pittsburgh, 1892, p. 117.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character:

The 1908 reconstruction of the facade of 639 Liberty Avenue entirely masked the Victorian Commercial-style building erected for Robert H. King although the masonry partywalls and wood floors of the open loft spaces survived the building's facelift. The new free-classical facade constructed of brick over a steel frame was in keeping with contemporary taste as the vocabulary of Beaux Arts classical architecture was filtered and adapted to buildings of even modest importance in the early twentieth century. Above the first floor shopfront, which was altered later, brick end piers rose to the top of the third floor windows where they were ornamented with terra cotta cartouches. Between the end piers, narrow doric piers divided the bay into triple windows which were slightly recessed at an angle to create the illusion of projecting bay windows. Panelled spandrels separated the second and third floor fenestration while a horizontal band and brick corbelling set off the fourth floor of triple windows. A dentilled metal cornice with paired end consoles crowned the building.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions:

The building at 639 Liberty Avenue occupied 100-percent of its 20' by 88' site, extending from Liberty Avenue through to a rear alley. According to a 1984 survey, the interior measured 17' 6" by 3' 2". The four stories rose to a height of fifty feet as recorded on a 1927 Sanborn Atlas.

2. Foundations:

The foundation was presumably of rubblestone, which was typical of the period, building size and region.



3. Walls:

Party walls were constructed of common bond brick. The Sanborn Atlas shows the west wall with diminishing wall thicknesses of 16" at the first and second floors, and 12" at the upper two floors, while the east wall was 12" thick throughout. The rear wall was brick, presumably laid in common bond.

4. Structural system, framing:

The building was constructed of timbers spanning the 17' 6" of the interior, and spaced at regular intervals, presumably 12" on center, allowing clear span loft spaces. The 1908 Liberty Avenue facade was framed with steel columns and girders.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors:

The original door configuration is unknown, but the altered shopfront provided a central multi-paned door with a broken pediment above. The rear facade had a central rectangular door opening.

h. Windows and shutters:

Within the altered shopfront, two small shuttered windows flanked the central door. At the second and third floor the effect of a bowed window was created by angling the side windows within the depth of the wall. The multi-paned sashes were single hung, -- likely pivot sash -- at the second floor and double hung at the third floor. Fourth floor triple windows were one over one double hung. The rear facade had rectangular windows at the first floor (alterations), and two over two double hung windows in segmental openings at the upper floors.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, covering:

The roof sloped slightly back from the front at Liberty Avenue and was composed of built up roofing.

b. Cornice, eaves:

The cornice was of pressed metal with dentils and paired end consoles.

PENN AND LIBERTY AVENUES (COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS)  
(King Building)  
HABS No. PA -5152B  
(Page 18)

HEINZ BLOCK  
Sketch Plans

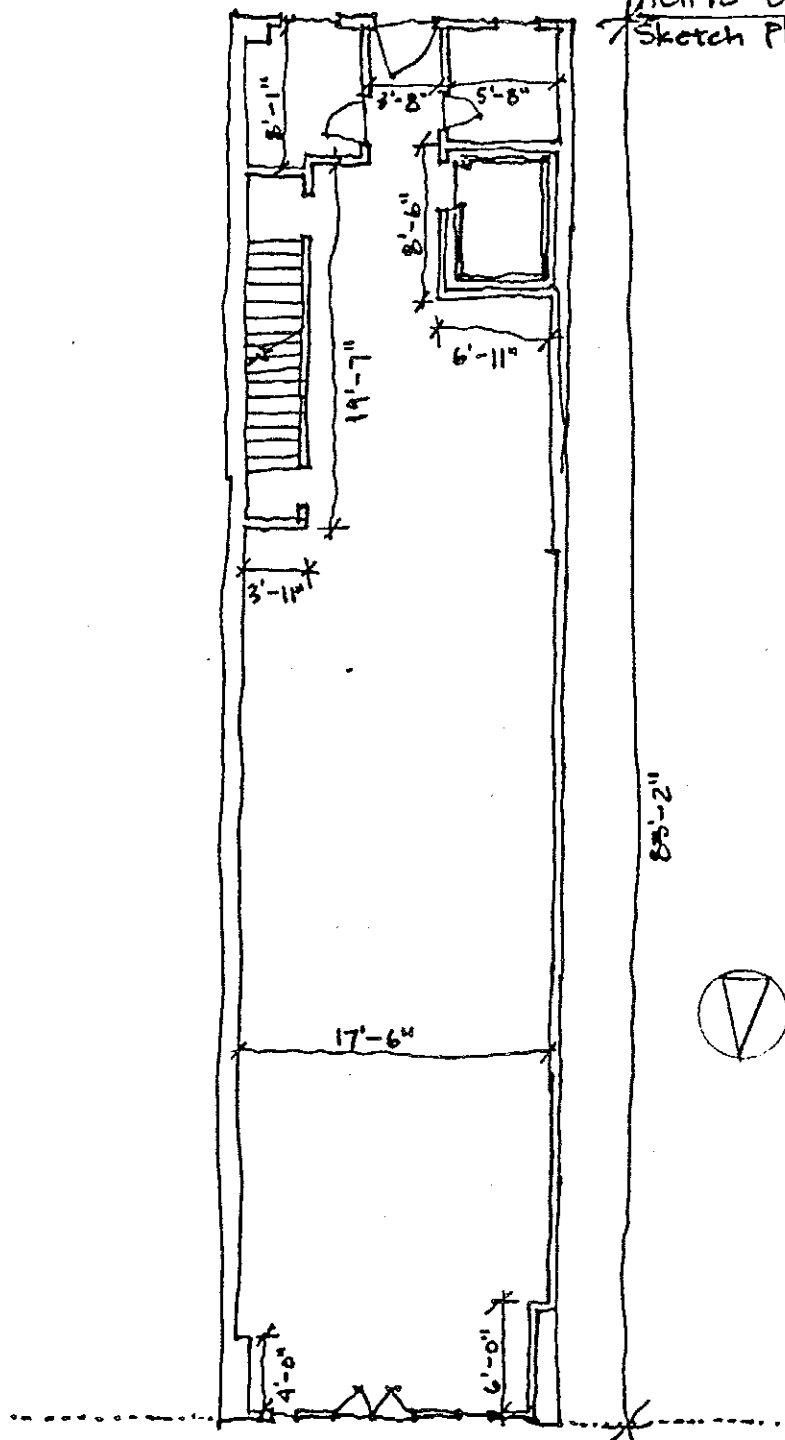


Fig. 9. Sketch plan of First Floor of 639 Liberty Avenue, by John Bertola and Philip Snyder, of Kingsland, Bauer, Havekotte, Pittsburgh, PA.

C. Description of Interior:

Information about the interior comes from a 1984 survey by architects Kingsland, Bauer and Havekotte, which shows clear span open loft spaces, apparently vestiges of the building's original use as a produce warehouse. At the rear of the first floor, two small areas were partitioned as a later alteration. Both the stair along the west wall and elevator along the east wall were found in their original locations towards the rear. The position of the elevator is confirmed by a 1927 Sanborn Atlas.

D. Site:

The King Building occupies its entire site from Liberty Avenue back to the remnant of Exchange Way. It has always been bounded on the east and west by adjacent structures -- 641 Liberty having been built simultaneously, while 637 Liberty, from photographic evidence in 1899 pre-dated it. The side walls would have been exposed above 637, but it probably would not have had any windows on the partywall.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early Views:

100 Views of Pittsburgh. H. Hammond Hook and Co., 1899.

R.L. Polk's Pittsburgh and Allegheny Directory, 1892.

B. Interviews:

Carolyn Boyce, Preservationist for Pittsburgh City Planning Department. Interview with George E. Thomas. Discussion of planning issues and proposed historic district.  
18 December 1984.

Richard Palucci, Mellon-Stewart Contractors. Interview with George E. Thomas. Discussion of demolition, with photographs of buildings as basis for commentary. Mr. Palucci was the supervisor and prime contractor on the job. 9 January 1985.

Frank Crown, head of Crown Demolition which handled the actual wrecking of the buildings. Telephone interview with George E. Thomss. 9 January 1985.

John Bertola and Philip Snyder, interns from Kingsland, Bauer, and Havekotte, Architects. Interview with George E. Thomas about demolition of buildings and discussion of sketch plans. 9 January 1985.

Walter C. Kidney, Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation staff. Interview with George E. Thomas about location of pieces of various buildings. 29 January 1985.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form, Office of Historic Preservation, PA Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA.

Pittsburgh Bureau of Building Inspection, Building Permit Files, Public Safety Building, Pittsburgh, PA.

Pittsburgh Bureau of Building Inspection. Record Book of Alterations and Repairs, 1897-1914. Archives of Industrial Society, Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh Bureau of Building Inspection. Record Book of New Additions, 1896-1916. Archives of Industrial Society, Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh Bureau of Building Inspection. Yearly Docket of Building Permits, 1877-1916. Archives of Industrial Society, Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh.

Recorder of Deeds, Allegheny Courthouse Annex, Pittsburgh, PA.

2. Secondary and published sources:

- History and Commerce of Pittsburgh and Environs. New York:  
A.F. Parsons Publishing Company, 1893-94.
- Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of the Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny.  
Philadelphia, 1882. plate 1.
- Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of the Cities of Pittsburgh, Allegheny, and  
the Adjoining Boroughs. Philadelphia, 1872. pp. 22-23.
- Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of the City of Pittsburgh. Philadelphia, 1889.  
Vol.1, plate 5.
- Hopkins, G.M. Map of Greater Pittsburgh PA. Philadelphia, 1910.  
plate 1.
- Hopkins Co., G.M. Real Estate Plat Book of the City of Pittsburgh.  
Philadelphia, 1923. Vol. 1, plate 4.
- Kelly, J.M. Handbook of Greater Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh: J.M. Kelly  
Co., 1895.
- Lorant, Stefan. Pittsburgh: The Story of an American City. Second  
Edition. Lenox, MA: Authors Edition, Inc., 1975. p. 265.
- Pittsburgh and Allegheny Illustrated Review. Pittsburgh: J.M.  
Elstner and Co., 1889.
- Pittsburgh of To-day. Compiled by the Consolidated Illustrating  
Co., Pittsburgh, 1896.
- R.L. Polk's Pittsburgh and Allegheny Directory.
- R.L. Polk and R.L. Dudley's Pittsburgh, Allegheny and Allegheny  
County Business Directory.
- Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps of Pittsburgh. New York, 1927.  
Vol. 1, plate 4.
- Stryker, Roy and Mel Seidenberg. A Pittsburgh Album. Pittsburgh  
Post Gazette, 1959.

Thurston, George H. Pittsburgh and Allegheny in the Centennial Year. Pittsburgh: A.A. Anderson & Son, 1876.

Thurston, George H. Pittsburgh's Progress, Industries and Resources. Pittsburgh: A.A. Anderson & Son, 1886.

D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

University of Pittsburgh, Photo Archives

Prepared by: Carol A. Benenson, M.S., and George E. Thomas, Ph.D.  
Clio Group, Inc.  
15 February 1985

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Allegheny International project is a continuation of the downtown redevelopment of Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle. Spurred by the success of the Heinz Hall complex, and motivated by the availability of the Stanley Theater, the Allegheny Conference commissioned Llewelyn-Davis/Hanna-Olin to prepare the Penn/Liberty Urban Design Study which was completed in late 1979. The consultants found the region to be underutilized, and proposed three focii -- a performing arts center, a convention center, and the riverfront. Though buildings were often of high architectural character, changes in shopfronts had degraded the street level. Moreover, it was clear that as the effects of removing heavy industry from the river edge of the downtown continued to occur, the support zones that had developed to serve them in Penn/Liberty would become increasingly derelict. On the other hand, just as transportation had reshaped the region in the 1850s, it could be anticipated that the new subway would have a similar impact in the 1980s. The 600 and 700 blocks were found to have buildings of modest architectural interest -- with the exception of the Moose Hall, Kingsbacher's, and 631 - 633 Liberty, and recommendations were made that argued for the removal of many of those buildings to emphasize the area as a cultural center. It was assumed that in the end, while the Heinz Hall, Stanley Theater, and perhaps the Moose would stay, that the other buildings would be replaced by a larger office block fronting on Liberty Avenue.

Three years after the Llewelyn-Davis/Hanna-Olin study, newspaper stories reported the acquisition of property in the 600 block of Liberty and Penn avenues, by the operators of Heinz Hall, and in November of 1983 the Post Gazette reported that the Penn/Liberty project had been unveiled (19 November 1983). With Allegheny International as the prime mover two office towers would be erected, and the Stanley Theater would be restored. Land acquisition proceeded from 1980 until 1984, with the new owner being the Penn Liberty Holding Company or its subsidiaries.

In 1983 it became clear that the new project probably would cause the demolition of the Moose Hall while some concerns were expressed about the demolition of the adjacent shop buildings as well (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "Triangle Landmark May Affect Tower Plan" 30 November 1983). The Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation dropped its opposition to the Moose Hall demolition in December of 1983 and on February 10, 1984, Louise Ferguson, Executive Director of the Foundation, announced their reasons. "Allegheny International would not go ahead with the Moose Building (in place on Penn Avenue)." The Post Gazette had already argued editorially "No Place for Moose" (5 December 1983), "What is clear is that the city stands to gain greatly from the construction of the new headquarters for Allegheny International, which will be a center for cultural as well as corporate activity. The Moose Hall should not be allowed to block that farsighted endeavor."

The final solution was a memorandum of agreement between the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, and the Pittsburgh Trust for Cultural Resources (Penn Liberty Holding Company), the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, and the Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission to record the streetscape elevation of 631 - 641 and 719 - 725 Liberty Avenue, the Moose Hall, and 636 Penn Avenue, and to provide individual elevations of 631 - 633, 637 Liberty and the elevation and plans of the Moose Hall. Sponsored by the Heinz Endowment, the drawings were produced under the direction of John Hnedak, Office of Cultural Programs, Mid-Atlantic Region, National Park Service, by Kingsland, Bauer, Havekotte, architects of Pittsburgh, PA, in the summer of 1984. Supervising architect was Roger L. Kingsland, and the buildings were measured and drafted by Philip J. Snyder and John A. Bertola. At that time, the buildings were also surveyed, and sketch plans and data on them were gathered. In the autumn of 1984, George E. Thomas, Ph.D. and Carol A. Benenson, M.S., of the Clio Group, Historic Consultants, surveyed the standing buildings, developed the research and historic background and prepared the written documentation. During this later phase of the project, Rebecca Trumball of the Office of Cultural Programs, National Park Service, assumed direction of the Penn-Liberty report.